

Colorado Rocky Mountain Chapter
SWANA
“Solid Waste Association of North America”



Newsletter

Fall 2003

Presidents Corner
by John Briest

This newsletter marks the beginning of a new year for the Colorado Chapter of SWANA. As your President, I'm looking forward to an exciting year and with the dynamic group of directors, I'm sure it will be a rewarding year for both members and directors alike.

Your Chapter board is comprised of

John Briest	BFI	President
Leonard Butler	Waste Management of Colorado	Vice-President
Curt Ahrendsen	AEC	Treasurer
Debby Barton	Montezuma County	Secretary
Dick Sprague	HDR	Past President
Laurie Batchelder Adams	LBA	Intl. Board
Mark McMullen	AEC	Director
Jim Kriss	CDM	Director
Kathy Claes	El Paso County Solid Waste	Director
Roger Doak	Colorado Dept. Health and Envir.	Director
Stephen Gillette	Dept Natural Resources Larimer County	Director

As we enter a new year I intend to focus on the information considered important to the Chapter both nationally and locally and incorporate this into a useable and informative website. We will continue our strong programs where we will continue to provide a variety of topics for all members.

The concluding event of the Chapters fiscal year is the annual meeting. This past year the meeting was held in Colorado Springs on September 12. The program committee did an excellent job in putting together a varied and informative group of presenters. The program consisted of 12 presentations and covered a variety of topics. Presentations included topics on regulations, solid waste economics, and less publicized topic categories like solid waste emergency response and the trends seen in the solid waste community. The program also featured a speaker from the Center for Generational Studies who spoke to the differences seen in the workplace due to an individual's generational life experiences. I would like to extend a special thanks to Kathy Claes who did an excellent job in putting together the venue and serving as the point of contact in working out all of the details.

Lastly, on behalf of the Board I would like to extend a special thanks to Dick Sprague for the contributions he has made as President over the past two years. He has provided the Board with valuable experience, which I intend to build on and return to the membership.



Local Awards

Larimer County – Best New Program Award

Press Release: Larimer County Natural Resources (CO) Receives Best New Program Award at North American Hazardous Materials Management Conference

Kansas City, MO – Outstanding people, programs and policies dedicated to pollution prevention and the reduction of hazardous components entering municipal solid waste streams were honored on October 7th at the 2003 Hazardous Materials Management Conference at the Downtown Marriott, Kansas City. Sponsored by the North American Hazardous Materials Management Association (NAHMMA) in cooperation with the Mid-America Regional Council, this 19th annual conference recognized and promoted exemplary pollution prevention initiatives. Larimer County Colorado Natural Resources is the recipient of the Best New Program Award.

The Best New Program Award recognizes the best new Household Hazardous Waste program implemented at the local level during the past year. The Larimer County Natural Resources developed an education program called the “Garbage Garage.” This program teaches visitors about household hazardous waste: where it can be found in the home, how to manage these materials properly, and how to avoid creating HHW altogether.

Mesa County – 2003 Special Waste Excellence “Gold Award”

Headquartered in Grand Junction, Colorado, the Mesa County Solid Waste Management Division operates on a philosophy of maintaining program flexibility. Flexibility to handle an ever-changing and widening array of waste streams considered hazardous or environmentally unfriendly. This flexibility can be seen in their development of a versatile Special Waste Management Program, the implementation of a permanent Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility, and a Used Syringe/Sharps Collection Program for residents and businesses of Mesa County.

Since its inception in February of 2000, the Mesa County Household Hazardous Waste Program has steadily increased the number of participants from 2165 in its first year of operation to 3432 participants in 2002. 2002 also yielded 288,846 pounds of hazardous waste, of which 85% was recycled. Their Sharps/Syringe program has also been extremely successful in diverting a significant amount of potentially infectious material from the waste stream. Mesa County has also been involved in several public outreach efforts including informational brochures and flyers and sponsored daily radio informational messages called “Conserve Mesa County”.

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2004 Program Information: by Leonard Butler

In the first half of 2004, the Chapter plans to host three programs tentatively scheduled for January 20, March 16 and May 18, 2004. The details of these programs will be sent out in advance to Chapter Members and the January 20 program registration form is included herein. Each program will be scheduled around noon so that you might get reacquainted and network with other professionals in the solid waste community before the technical program is presented.

Possible topics being considered for these next three programs include ground water remediation/assessment for landfill gas impacts, Title V Compliance, composting, e-waste recycling or emergency management planning at facilities under the new Home land security requirements.

If you are interested in making a presentation on one of these topics or have another subject of interest to share with the membership, please contact Leonard Butler at 303-914-1444 or e-mail at lbutler2@wm.com.

SWANA Training Center in Denver: by Laurie Batchelder Adams

SWANA will hold one of its Training Centers in Denver April 19th through 22nd, 2004. The Center will be held at the Hyatt Regency and will include MOLO, Collection and Transfer Station certification training, as well as the Principles of Solid Waste Management and Landfill Gas Basics. Additional information and registration will be available in January on www.swana.org.

September Annual Meeting Sponsors: by Curt Ahrendsen

The board would like to extend our sincere appreciation to all sponsors of the annual meeting. Your generosity and assistance helps keep registration fees down, thereby improving overall attendance and facilitating information exchange within the solid waste community. Please acknowledge the following sponsors: BFI (\$500), Golder Associates (\$500), Waste Management (\$200), R.E. Monks Construction Co. (\$200), Evergreen Analytical (\$200), American Environmental Consultants (\$100), Aquater (\$100), and Ted Miller & Associates (\$100).

Local Chapter Newsletter: by Jim Kriss

To reduce printing and mailing costs, the board has decided to begin e-mailing future editions of the chapter newsletter in lieu of mailing hardcopies. Hardcopies can still be mailed upon request. Contact Jim Kriss at (303) 298-1311.

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SWANA International Board Report
by Laurie Batchelder Adams

At this, the Board's busiest meeting of the year, much was decided and rolled out in the form of new member services and accessibility. A bulleted list of topics and discussions is included below. Additional detail is available upon request to Laurie (lbaassoc@qwest.net or 303-733-7943).

New FY04 Officers & Upcoming Bylaws Change

- New President, Al Lynch – from Vancouver, British Columbia (Nancy Nevil becomes Past President)
- Int'l Board has approved a recommendation to the overall SWANA membership – to change the limit of private sector (“Corporate”) members on the 5-person officer corps from 1 to 2 – WATCH for an electronic vote that will be held early next year

Financial Health – strong despite the economy and an 11-month transitional year

- Exceeded 7,000 members
- Overall revenues, technical division memberships, meeting registrations, certified members – all exceeded budget predictions

New Website & Services

- On-line beginning earlier this month – with full roll-out scheduled for early 2004
- Increased accessibility (and responsibility for updating) to both members and chapters
- With your name and SWANA member # you can log on and update your profile
- Also – 2 chapter officers will have chapter access and ability to print mailing lists and labels
- Individual members have access to any and all members of national organization (read only)
- Listing of CEUs earned, meeting registrations, training requests, legislative and research news, SWANA store purchases and technical division pages available to all members

Legislative Advocacy

- LF Gas-to-Energy – hoping to have successful US House bill this year (see “Landfill Gas-to-Energy Update” article)
- New Recycling legislative activity kicked off in St Louis for national diversion initiative
- New Government Affairs staffer (Mac Bybee) – conducting quarterly debriefs of national legislation to chapters

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Applied Research Foundation

- Research arm of SWANA, is subscription-based
- Disposal and Collection groups are in 3rd year
- Recycling group in 2nd year – first project was “How-To” for single-stream (document now available at SWANA Store at www.swana.org); 2nd will be food waste composting

New Training

- Increased number of states looking for SWANA certification – CA may make mandatory
- New courses – composting, bioreactor LFs; OSHA workshops for collection, transfer, MRF
- E-Courses now available – TSLOP (LF ops), LF OSHA, Waste Screening
- New “Webinars” – 3 e-scrap completed; single-stream in January; landfill in February

Chapter Issues

- Chapter partnering “minimum” have been dropped
- New insurance carrier means virtually no change for Colorado

Going Postal in Summit County

by Carly Wier, Summit Recycling Project

Late this summer, Summit Recycling Project (SRP) was told by a Postal Service district manager to remove recycling bins from Summit County post office lobbies. The reasons cited for removing the post office recycling bins varied between the appearance of the traditional blue recycling bins, the perception lobby recycling bins give to the direct mail industry, OSHA regulations, and even the cost of the free service.

SRP, a nonprofit organization, had initiated the free post office recycling program over 5 years ago to collect discarded mail from residents, most of who don't have access to mail delivery or curbside recycling services in the somewhat rural mountain community. An estimated 157 tons of paper is collected annually through the post office recycling program.

Fortunately, Summit County citizens spoke out in force about the post office recycling programs, sending letters and e-mails and making phone calls to the media and elected officials. From this outcry, Summit County's Board of County Commissioners solicited the help of US Representative Mark Udall to resolve the problem. Udall had also received scores of calls about the issue from local residents, and thus contacted national and regional Postal Service officials urging them to reverse the decision to remove the recycling bins.

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Thanks to the assistance of Udall's office, and the strong voice of local recyclers, the post office recycling program is again alive and well in Summit County, and Udall has proposed draft legislation to encourage the Postal Service to work with local recycling programs to collect unwanted and undeliverable mail. Local action does make a difference!

Landfill Gas-to-Energy Update

SWANA Press Release

SWANA Continues to Work on National Landfill Gas Tax Credits: (SWANA Press Release, 10-3-03)

Washington, DC (October 3, 2003)— As part of a summit on the need for a comprehensive energy plan, SWANA member Thomas Hadden met yesterday with Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham and White House Chief of Staff Andrew Card to explain the reasons why the United States Congress should adopt Landfill Gas (LFG) Tax Credits as part of the Energy Bill that is currently in conference committee.

Hadden, Executive Director of the Metro Waste Authority in Iowa, and a member of SWANA's Landfill Gas Advocacy Committee, presented his arguments on behalf of the over 7,000 members of the association. The passage of landfill gas tax credits is one of SWANA's major legislation priorities in this session of Congress and the opportunity to make the case directly to Bush Administration officials brings this grassroots effort seemingly one step closer to its goal.

Among the points that Hadden raised at the briefing were:

- The usefulness of landfill gas as a “direct use” fuel or as a replacement for natural gas
- The benefit gained from the development of 600 additional LFG sites nation-wide that would come on-line if the LFG tax credit in the House Energy bill is passed—enough energy to power over 1 million homes.

“Landfill gas tax credits are not only important to improving solid waste management practices but are crucial to our Nation's energy security as they will reduce our dependence on foreign oil,” said John Skinner, SWANA's Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer. “Landfill gas is an incredibly promising renewable energy supply that will not only reduce our dependence on imported oil, but is a more environmentally sound method of producing power. It's time that our elected officials include landfill gas tax credits in our national energy strategy. SWANA supports the passage of the landfill gas tax credits contained in the House passed version of the Comprehensive Energy Bill.”

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